

3/2/22

To: Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee.

Re.: Senate Bill 184

Thank you for allowing me to speak today. My name is Subha Clarke. I am against SB 184 to extend no-excuse absentee voting due to Covid-19 for several reasons.

1. Covid-19 emergency is over. CT along with many states have removed their restrictions. Schools are open and no longer virtual. Businesses are open, and most if not all individuals have returned to some semblance of normalcy. Covid-19 can no longer be used as a reason to not vote in person. Even, during the height of the pandemic, Dr. Anthony Fauci was quoted in August 15, 2020 as saying, unless one is “compromised physically”, “there’s no reason in-person voting shouldn’t be safe with masks and proper social distancing”. This is even more true today, two years out. Certainly, if an able-bodied citizen can stand in line to go grocery shopping, stand in line to obtain free covid-19 home test kits, stand in a crowded airport to board a plane, then they can stand in line to vote in-person to exercise their civic duty.
2. Expanding mail-in voting increases risk for fraud. Think about it, it is easier to forge a signature or impersonate another voter in the privacy of one’s home than at the polling booth.
3. Absentee voting is not reliable. Ballots can be lost, delivered late, not signed and therefore, not counted.
4. Finally, People have been voting in person since the founding of this country and the 15 th amendment gives all citizens the right to vote. As an immigrant, naturalized citizen, and person of color, this is a right that I cherish and value with pride. I believe all citizens should exercise this right in person so as to guarantee that their vote counts.

Thank you,

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